

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /118 W
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R 311125Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SAIGON 15752

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS MILI, VS

SUBJECT: GVN CANCELATION OF SATURDAY VIET CONG PRESS
CONFERENCE

1. GVN SPOKESMAN LT. COL. LE TRUNG HIEN ANNOUNCED AT 4:30 PM PRESS BRIEFING TODAY (AUGUST 31) THERE WOULD BE NO PRG SATURDAY NEWS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1 BECAUSE THE GVN WOULD NOT PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION OR ISSUE PERMITS TO JOURNALISTS TO ENTER THE PRG COMPOUND AT CAMP DAVIS, TAN SON NHUT. HIEN SAID THE GVN WAS TAKING THIS POSITION PARTLY IN RETALIATION FOR REMARKS MADE AT TPJMC MEETING TODAY (AUGUST 31) BY SENIOR PRG COLONEL VO DONG GIANG AND PARTLY TO SHOW THE VIET CONG "WHO IS THE BOSS IN SOUTH VIETNAM."

2. HIEN SAID THAT COLONEL GIANG ADMITTED THERE WERE 300,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CALLED ON THE GVN TO ABOLISH ITS CONSTITUTION AND LEGALIZE THEIR PRESENCE. HIEN REPORTED THAT AT ONE POINT, COLONEL GIANG POINTED HIS FINGER RUDELY AT THE GVN CHIEF DELEGATE, BRIG. GENERAL PHAN HOA HIEP, AND ACCUSED HIM OF SELLING HIS COUNTRY TO THE AMERICANS.

3. HIEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE VIET CONG REPRESENTATIVE AT THE TPJMC MEETING STRONGLY CRITICIZED SOUTH VIETNAMESE AS WELL
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AS AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. "FOR INSTANCE," HIEN

SAID, "THE VC REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
IS MERELY THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH VIETNAM."

4. TRANSCRIPT OF PERTINANT EXTRACTS OF GVN PRESS BRIEFING
FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
APPLING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973081/aaaaabv.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GVN CANCELTION OF SATURDAY VIET CONG PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: MILI
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005